



THE STATE

OF WYOMING

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September 24, 2003

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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 - 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-A306
Washington, D.C. 20554

Ms. Irene Flannery
Universal Service Administration Company
2120 L Street N.W., Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20037

RE: CERTIFICATION OF THE WYOMING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION THAT ALL
FEDERAL HIGH-COST SUPPORT PROVIDED TO **NON-RURAL CARRIERS** IN
WYOMING IS USED ONLY FOR THE PROVISION, MAINTENANCE, AND
UPGRADING OF FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR WHICH THE SUPPORT IS
INTENDED (**CC DOCKET NO. 96-45**)

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Flannery:

The Wyoming Public Service Commission (WPSC) hereby submits, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313, its annual certification to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). 47 C.F.R. § 54.313 requires that the appropriate state regulatory authority annually certify those non-rural incumbent local exchange carriers and/or eligible telecommunications carriers serving lines in the service area of a non-rural incumbent local exchange carrier, within their jurisdiction, for purposes of receiving federal universal service fund support.

The WPSC has solicited from its jurisdictional non-rural incumbent local exchange carriers and/or eligible telecommunications carriers serving lines in the service area of a non-rural incumbent local exchange carrier, their respective affidavits that set forth the manner in which federal universal service support funds have been used, and will be used during the applicable 12-month period for which support funds are being requested.

As the appropriate state regulatory authority with jurisdiction to regulate, *inter alia*, the intrastate activities of telecommunications companies serving in Wyoming, the WPSC hereby identifies **Qwest Corporation** (Qwest) as a non-rural incumbent local exchange carrier that is eligible for federal universal service support. Qwest represents and the WPSC, upon its own knowledge, certifies that the federal universal service funds received by Qwest are used as a bill credit on the bills of its high cost basic retail service customers, in assisting these customers in paying for essential telecommunications services. The cost

of providing service, and maintaining and upgrading facilities are reflected in the rates established for basic retail service, which are then reduced through the use of the bill credit.


The WPSC has also previously designated **Silver Star Telephone Company, Inc.** (Silver Star) as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) as it relates to its provision of competitive local exchange services in the Afton, Wyoming exchange of Qwest. Silver Star has submitted information and its affidavit stating that it will use the federal universal service funds only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities for which the support is intended. The Commission therefore identifies and certifies **Silver Star** as an eligible telecommunications carrier serving lines in the service area of a non-rural incumbent local exchange carrier.

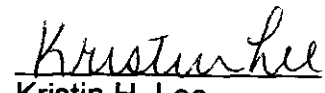
Western Wireless Corporation (Western Wireless) has also submitted a written affidavit in which it states that federal universal service support funds will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities for which the support is intended, and identified those supported services as designated in C.F.R. § 54.101, as services which are available throughout its designated service area.

Western Wireless has been designated by the FCC as an ETC, in certain designated service areas within the state of Wyoming. ETC status was granted to Western Wireless by the FCC, in light of the fact that the WPSC determined that it did not, at that time, have authority to regulate cellular technology or grant ETC status to wireless providers. The WPSC continues to be without authority to regulate the operations or rates of Western Wireless

In conclusion, based upon the representation contained in the affidavits submitted by Qwest, Silver Star, and Western Wireless, and the Commission's general knowledge of the operations and facilities of Qwest and Silver Star, the Commission certifies that **Qwest Corporation ((Study Area Code (SAC) 515108))**, **Silver Star Telephone Company, Inc., ((Study Area Code (SAC) 519001))**, in its capacity as an ETC serving the Afton Wyoming exchange, and **Western Wireless Corporation ((Study Area Code (SAC) 519002))** will only use the federal universal service support funds for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and service for which the support is intended, consistent with § 254(e) of the federal Communications Act of 1934, as amended. This includes High Cost Loop support (HCL), Local Switching Support (LSS), High Cost Model support (HCM), Hold Harmless support (HH), and high cost support received pursuant to the purchase of exchanges. The affidavits of Qwest Corporation, Silver Star Telephone Company, Inc., and Western Wireless Corporation will be made available to the FCC and/or USAC upon request.

Sincerely,


Steve Ellenbecker
Chairman


Kristin H. Lee
Deputy Chair


Steve Furtney
Commissioner